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ABSTRACT

This booklet contains 51 selected journal entries, written in English or Spanish by migrant students in the 1990 Migrant Education Summer Program of the Escondido Union High School District, San Diego, California. The students recorded their thoughts on the following topics: (1) personal histories; (2) experiences at school; (3) life in California; (4) thoughts about life; and (5) creative writing. Seventeen of the entries are in Spanish, 29 are in English, and 5 are in both languages. The purpose of the writing course was to develop the migrant students' written communication skills by involving them in a variety of writing exercises. It provided an opportunity for students to explore their personal histories and their culture, and express their thoughts through journal writing. (TES)

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OUR CULTURE, OUR LIVES

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Our Culture, Our Lives

Introduction

This publication is the product of migrant students and staff involved in the Migrant Education Summer Program in the Escondido Union High School District during the Summer of 1990. The Migrant Education Program coordinated the teaching of the writing course, Exploring Writing Through Culture, offered in the district through the P.A.S.S. program. The purpose of the course was to develop the written communication skills of students by involving them in a variety of stimulating writing exercises, and to provide an opportunity for the students to explore their personal histories and their culture. The writings included in this publication are samples selected from the journals of some of the young people who participated.

Our Culture, Our Lives is dedicated to the migrant students, staff, and parents for their commitment and contributions. We hope this publication will help others to understand more about the unique life experiences of migrant students.

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Our Culture, Our Lives

JOURNALS
SUMMER 1990

MY PERSONAL HISTORY

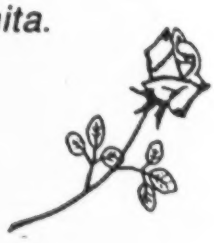
Tu y yo
agosto de 1990

Tu y yo suena muy bonito mamá ya que yo quisiera decir que tengo aquí conmigo una ansia tan grande de poder decir te necesito y que pueda saber que también me necesitas allá en donde estas. Me buscas y yo te busco, por lo tanto no podemos estar separadas. Pero tu no vives en este mundo, mas en cambio yo sé que vives en mi corazón aunque yo no puedo escucharte y sí puedo hablarte y tu puedes escucharme pero no puedes hablarme.

Esto es muy horrible en mi mente pero en mi corazón tu vives y no podré olvidar quien me dio la vida.

Tu y yo, aunque no podamos estar juntas, estamos en comunicación por el corazón.

Te quiero mamita.



Alejandra Ariza

You and I (Translation)
August 1991

Mother, You and I sounds beautiful. I have an urge within me to be able to say that I need You and to be able to know that You need me there, where you are. You seek me and I seek you; therefore, we are not apart. However, you don't live in this world, but I know that You live in my heart. I cannot hear You but I do talk to You. You can hear me but You cannot talk to me.

In my mind this is horrible but you live in my heart, and I will never forget You gave me life.

You and I, eventhough we are not together we stay together through our hearts.

I love you mamita.

Alejandra Ariza

Mi Pueblo Natal
agosto de 1990

Esta es la historia de mi pueblo natal donde yo nací y crecí A ese lugar antes le llamaban la Laguna del Tepeuage porque los que poblaron el lugar se llamaban Jose Farjas y Don Epitacio Berastigue con su señora esposa Loreto de Berastigue.

Ahora se llama Rancho La Trinidad Municipio de San Ciro de Acosta San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Nuestra Iglesia se fundó en el año 1887, y fue construída también por Don Epitacio Berastigue y ahí dentro del altar de la iglesia descansan los restos de Don Epitacio Berastigue.

Y en aquellos años no había escuela. Las clases se comensaron en 1963. Ahora tenemos desde el kinder hasta el número 9. Tampoco había luz eléctrica ni agua de llave. Ahora hay sillas y la red del agua y esto se extendió en el año 1979. Y también hay una gran sala de cultura. Esta sala de cultura la fincaron en el año 1986. Lo demás yo lo sé por mis abuelitos y mis padres. Y este es el fin de la historia porque yo no se más. Fin

Angelica Duarte

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My Hometown (translation)
August 1990

This is the history of my hometown, where I was born and raised. This placed used to be called Laguna del Tepeuage because those who lived there were called Jose Farjas y Don Epitacio Berastigue along with his wife señora Loreto de Berastigue.

Now it is called Rancho La Trinidad Municipio de San Ciro de Acosta San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Our church was founded in 1887, and it was also built by Don Epitacio Berastigue, and his remains are buried in the altar.

And in those times there was no school. Although classes began in 1963 there was no school. Now there is a school that has from kindergarten to 9th grade. There wasn't any electricity nor drinking water., but now there are chairs for the school, and drinking water was installed in 1979. There is also a cultural center. This cultural center was built in 1986. The rest I know through my grandparents and my parents. And this is the end of the history of my town because I don't know anymore about it. The End.

Angelica Duarte

Cómo llegué a los Estados Unidos de America
Julio de1990

Yo llegué a este país por mi hermano y estoy muy contento de estar aquí por que es un país muy lleno de oportunidades y muchas cosas bonitas, muchos trabajos muchas oportunidades de ser mejor de estudiar y superarse y poder trabajar en lugares no muy importantes pues al menos no para lavar trastes o lavar pisos como dice un dicho muy conocido. Dice que el mundo es de los audaces y es cierto por que si uno estudia con mucha audacia uno es mejor siempre. Yo quisiera llegar a ser una doctora, una secretaria, etc., todo menos lava trastes, limpia pisos o cuida niños.

Alejandra Ariza

Un hermano
julio de 1990

Un hermano es como un compañero con el cual se juega y se convive. Uno siempre juega con mucho cariño y siempre ayuda, siempre cuando haces algo malo. Te da consejos porque como son hermanos el o ella no desea que le pase algo malo y que te haga mal o daño siempre como una sombra, siempre contigo a tu lado. Espero que mi hermano nunca cambie porque el siempre me cuida y me da consejos ya que siempre me comprende y me ayuda en todo.

Alejandra Ariza

My Father
June 1990

I feel lonely cause my father isn't home any more. He left the house and now I don't have anyone to talk to anymore.

I talked to him over the phone on Wednesday and he said he was going to go visit me on Saturday or maybe on Sunday.

He said he is willing to buy me some shoes for when I start school again.

Maybe he'll come back, but if he doesn't that's the last I'll see of him.

Estella Carranza

My Dad
July 1990

Today I came to Dad's work, and he let me help him drive a fork-lift.

My uncle helped me buckle my seat belt so I wouldn't fall out, I drove the forklift around the packing house.

I had to clean my dad's truck so it wouldn't be so dirty. I guess I cleaned it all right because it looks better from the inside.

We'll "c" ya later.

Estella Carranza

Mi familia
julio de 1990

Yo Refugio Mondragon nací en la ciudad de Mexico. Tengo cuatro hermanos y tres hermanas. Dos de ellas están en México. Cuando yo vine a los Estados Unidos yo tenía la edad de diez años. Tengo como seis años aquí. Se un poco de inglés. Lo puedo leer y también lo entiendo.

Refugio Mondragon

A Bad Dream
July 1990

Today I had a bad dream I dreamt I was in T.J. and that I was going to fall asleep because everybody was sleeping when a priest passed by the room and went to the restoom, then I heard him fighting with the devil. I couldn't see them only a little bit from the side of the door. When they stopped I opened the door to the restroom then I saw the priest on the floor with a lot of blood and the only thing he said was, "It had to happen someday don't worry and God bless you." Then he told me that, right after he died. It was sad and scared, that's when I woke up.

Lorraine Corona

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Nunca me olvidaré
julio de 1990

Esta es una historia muy graciosa que me pasó y que nunca se me olvidará

Esto fue cuando fui a las montañas. Conocí a mucho compañeros cuando iban pasando los dias pero lo gracioso es que empezaron a contar cuentos a jugar juegos etc., pero la mayor parte en inglés y nadie habia notado que yo no comprendía. Solo algunas cosas entendía pero yo era el único que no hablaba inglés ya que todos lo entendían y lo hablaban. . Cuando llego el útimo día todos nos juntamos hicimos una fogata y ahi empezaron a decir cual era su meta. Uno dijo que se iba a meter en el army y así fueron pasando hasta que me tocó a mí y yo dije que mi meta era aprender inglés. Entonces fue donde todos se sorprendieron porque pensaban que hablaba inglés, ya que casi siempre me hablaban en inglés. Cuando dije eso todos se quedaron pensando y me dieron muchos consejos para como hacerle para aprender algun día el inglés. Y claro yo me apené porque era yo el único. Sus consejos me han servido mucho ya que ninguno se burló de mi, al contrario todos me empezaron a hablar en español . Esto lo que me a pasado, es una experience ya que me va a servir para toda mi vida. Yo pienso que nunca se me olvidará

Abraham León

My Goal
July 1990

I need to graduate next year because I think I didn't come to school all these years for nothing. I also want to graduate because I don't want people to say I didn't want to graduate. One of my biggest goals is to have money, and a good home for my family. I would really want to make something out of myself so when I have my job I don't have to worry about anything. I would also really want to graduate because my family always tells me that I probably won't. I want to graduate, so when I get my diploma I can tell my family I did it. All I know is that I want to graduate for myself. I want to be proud of myself and say to myself I did it.

Luis Montoya

My Goal
July 1990

My goal in life is to become a banker. I'd really like a job that has to do with money. I've always liked the idea of handling lots of money even if it isn't mine. I'd like to become very rich. Right now, I can't have everything I want because we're not rich. We are just normal. So I would really like to have lots of money some day so I can do and buy lots of things I want.

Teresa Quintero

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Teresa Quintero

My Goal
July 1990

I have a Goal that I will work hard to accomplish it and I am starting now because if you don't you won't live it. My Goal is to become a professional baseball and football player (like Bo Jackson). I would like to do these kinds of things because I am an active person and like to play these sports. I would also like to be someone in life not like Pete Rose or some of those unwanted Rookies. So that's why I am starting now so I won't have to regret it.

Juan Castañeda

An Embarrasing Moment
July 1990

One day one of my friends invited me to the mall and first we went to a restaurant and we ate. Next, went to buy some clothes so we went in a store. My friend found a friend so each of us started to talk about his trip in Mexico so I got so bored that I didn't want to tell my friend that I was so bored and so I thought to lie to my friend. I said that I wanted to go to the bathroom but I din't go to the bathroom. I went to a store to buy a shirt for me when I was in the store I saw a little girl that was cute so I was looking at her but at the same time I was walking looking back, so I crashed with a big window and all the people started to laugh at me. That was my most embarrasing moment in my whole life.

Cristina Retana

Lo que quisiera ser cuando sea grande
agosto de 1990

A mi me gustaría ser de grande una maestra de kinder porque me gustan mucho los niños chiquitos. Se me hacen bien bonitos los niños. Tambiín me gustaría ser una persona que ayude a los drogadictos a salir de eso y tener una escuela de rehabilitación. Yo pienso que la de los drogadictos es una buena idea, pero también ser maestra de niños pobres que no pueden pagar sus estudios. Me gustaría más ser maestra. Eso es lo que quisiera ser de grande.

Lourdes S. Rodriguez

Yo quisiera vivir en ...
July 1990

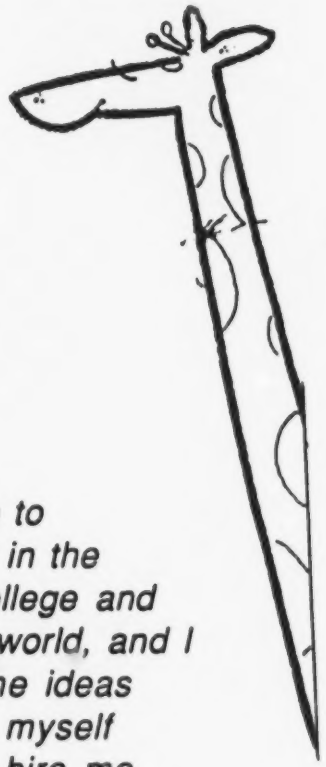
Yo quisiera vivir en México porque a mi me gusta mucho México. Allá tengo mi casa y a todos mi primos y primas . Por eso a mí me gustaria estar en México y también porque allá nací y allá están todos mis recuerdos de cuando era niña. Y porque allá yo me siento feliz. Y no me la paso aburrida porque yo puedo salir a donde yo quiero a caminar.

Alicia Velasquez

My Party
July 1990

The experience I am having is very different than any other one I have had. It feels different because it's the first time I have tried to organize a big paprty. While I am experiencing this, it feels scary because you have to do so many things that you just don't know where to start. This is the only time I will feel this way because it is the only time I am going to be fifteen. So now by the time I will get married I will have more experience in organizing a party or reunion.

Estella Carranza



I Want to be a Designer
July 1990

Hi! My name is Alicia Zavala and I am seventeen years old. I was born in Escondido, CA on October 6, 1972. I go to San Pasqual High School I'll be a Senior in the fall. After I graduate I plan to go to College and study to be a Designer, go around the world, and I ook at all the designs and then get some ideas or whatever. Then probably I'll install myself here in Escondido or go wherever they hire me. Well anyway, other than designing I like to isten to music. I also work in the afternoons, I work at House of Fabrics and my Manager said that it would help me.

Alicia Zavala

THE GIRAFFE
IS LIMITED IN THE
HEIGHTS HE CAN
REACH, BUT PEOPLE AREN'T

MY EXPERIENCE AT SCHOOL

The First Day in Class
July 1990

Today is the first day that I come to this class. I meet many people and I have to write Journal so the teacher can give me some credits. I think that this class can help me to learn more English and more things that can help me, and I can practice how to say well some words in English because I know what the people said but I can't speak very well.

Alejandra Alvarado

¡Hola!
July 1990

Pues lo único que puedo decir es que espero comprender un poco la clases que tengo que es U.S. History Creo que es un poco dificil tratar de comprender todo pero si es un poco fácil ir comprendiendo poco a poco algunas cosas. Aunque sea lo mas fácil y importante.

Espero comprender todo y poco al mismo tiempo.

Blanca A. Hernandez

My First Day
July 1990

Today was the first day that I came to school. I felt nervous at first but after a while I got used to it. Today I'm going to go to my friend's house. If I don't go to my friends house I will get in the pool. I wonder what's going to happen for the rest of the day? Today I did an R for my first initial. Since it was my first day on my letter I put the Mexican flag and put that I had brown eyes and brown skin. I think it is all I could think of.

Rene Castro

My First Day in School
July 1990

I just moved back to Escondido and will be going to San Pasqual for summer school. Today was my first day and it was pretty cool. I saw most of my old friends in different schools. After I got home I didn't do much just put all my things away and clean my room and call my X. He said he was going to come over tomorrow. Anyways, nothing from Yovonny yet. C-ya.

Elena Soto

Me gusta la escuela
julio de 1990

Yo creo que voy a venir casi todos los diás que vienen a las clases porque así puedo aprender muchas cosas y cuando entre en Septiembre a la escuela ya voy a saber un poco más y voy a tener unos créditos. Este diá hicimos una letra con la que empieza nuestro nombre. Y a las 10 tenemos un tiempo para poder ir al baño o caminar un poco. Esta mañana ha sido para mi muy bonita pues pude hacer cosas útiles y me distraí un poco porque en mi casa me aburro mucho.

Alejandra Alvarado

¡Un diá en la escuela!
julio de 1990

Para el tiempo que llevo aquí me parece que esto está de aquellas. Pero lo único malo es que me tengo que levantar temprano para venir a la escuela. Aquí hay un montón de nenas de aquellas pero no me gusta esto porque todas son muy serias y luego con el sueño que tengo.

I have sleep because last night I finish to see the TV hasta the 1:00 p.m.and I waking up 7:00 a.m. and now I have lot sleep.

Julio Perez

Blanca Came Early
July 1990

Today I woke up at 7:00 a.m. The first thing I did was to take a shower then I got dressed and went to eat breakfast. By the time I was done with my breakfast it was 8:10 a.m., I was about to go to the bathroom, when Blanca came to pick me up. I couldn't believe that Blanca had come to pick me up, because she always picks me up at 8:30. a.m. Once I got in the car she was sorry to come so early, but she said she had to take someone to the migrant office. After we took the students to the office we went to the health clinic so that I could get a check up. After that we headed down to San Pasqual High School. What I did in my first period class was to write this journal.

Enrique Castro

Nuestros segundos padres
agosto de 1990

Las escuelas y los maestros son nuestros segundos hogares, nuestros segundos padres porque pasamos parte del tiempo del dia con ellos estudiando, comiendo, colaborando con ellos. Ellos nos enseñan a leer y a escribir igual que nuestros padres nos enseñan a caminar, hablar, etc.

Alejandra Ariza

Our Second Parents (translation)

Schools and teachers are our second homes and parents because we spend most of our days studying, eating and collaborating with them. They teach us how to read and write just like our parents taught us how to walk, speak, etc.

Mrs. Johnson
August 1990

Mrs. Johnson is only getting mad this morning.

I think she is sick and tired of my being over talkative. I don't blame her for being mad at me. Ever since I came every day has been noisy. Everyone thinks it's funny, but I think it's getting out of hand, so I think I should stop.

Estella Carranza

La educación
July 1990

La educación es algo para respetar a los demás. Cuando los mayores estén hablando los menores deben de guardar silencio para que los mayores platiquen. El respeto no solo se les da a los mayores, pero también se deben de respetar a los menores. También deben de respetar las cosas ajenas porque si queremos que nos respeten hay que respetar a las personas, las cosas, y también a los animales. Nunca hay que olvidar a los animales porque ellos también cuentan en el mundo y hay que respetarlos porque ellos tambien sienten como nosotros el maltrato y el cariño. Nunca te olvides de respetar a los demas y las otras cosas por favor.

Lourdes S. Rodriguez

Education (translation)

Education enables us to respect others. When adults talk, minors should keep quiet to allow adults talk. We not only respect adults, but we also should respect minors. We should also respect things that don't belong to us, because if we wish to be respected, we in turn have to respect other people, things, and also animals. We should never forget animals because they also count in this world and we have to respect them because they also feel like we feel when we are mistreated and loved. Please, don't ever forget to respect others and things.

LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

Un día domingo
julio de 1990

El domingo pasado fuimos a la playa con mis padres. Nos invitó un amigo de mi papá que vive cerca de la casa. Regresamos de la playa a las 6 de la tarde porque iban a venir unos tíos de Los Angeles. Ellos vienen cada semana a ver como estamos . Todos ellos se van el martes o el miercoles para Los Angeles porque tienen que trabajar. Son tres tíos, dos casados y uno soltero. Este sabado no van a venir porque estan invitados a una fiesta de un amigo de mis tíos

Ernesto Chávez

I Got Shoes
July 1990

On Saturday I went to get my shoes. El Willo came to my house. We were talking about tapes, then Willo said let's go get a tape of some goodies. We went but there wasn't any of the ones we were looking. So we went to the Wherehouse. While el Willo and Bolita were looking for the tape I went to get my shoes at Foot Locker where I found the airlines. I told the guy if he had 7D. When I got them I went back to the Wherehouse to look for the Changos. When we got out we went inside the mall and we put on the shoe laces on the shoes. After that we went to the right to buy a soda, after that we went home.

Rene Castro

Estaba a dieta
agosto de 1990

Mamá estaba mala, le tuve que ayudar hacer comida y hacer de todo. Terminé de hacer el aseo como a las tres de la tarde. Llegaron mis carnales y nos pusimos a hacer ejercicios un rato. Se sentaron a comer y yo mejor me salí porque dije ese dia iba a hacer dieta, pero no aguante y en la cena me desquité pues ya que hicieron tacos de cabeza y ni modo que no los probara.

Julio Perez

My Social Life
July 1990

Today I had to ride in the back of my sister's car on the way to summer school. My hair went all over my face, but oh well. Next week I'm going to Catalina for a week, and I leave on Wednesday. But this Wednesday is my sister's birthday. (Socorro) She's going to be 18.

Tonite I'm going to play softball at Conway school, then we're going out to Pizza. I really don't know what to write but hold on and I'll bring up another subject. Now I have one, my mom and dad's 25th silver anniversary is coming up. There is going to be a lot of people there. After their anniversary, if we have enough money, we might go to San Felipe for a weekend which will be fun because my brother Danny has a quad (a four-wheeler) and a jet-ski. Fun haw? I well see ya!

Noemi Robles

Our Vacation
July 1990

Today I have to pack for Catalina I'm leaving tomorrow at 6:30 a.m. in the morning. I'm so excited? First we are going in a bus to Long Beach then we are going on a Ferri Boat to Catalina Island then we have to walk one mile plus we have to carry all of our luggage by ourselves (and have one arm free for a cooler) to our campsite, and we are staying there for 4 days. And we come back Sunday. Then August 4, we are going to have my mom and pap's 25th anniversary. Well, my hand hurts so bye!

Noemi Robles

El Homeboy Roberto Ariza
July 1990

My name is Roberto Ariza I have three sisters and four brothers. My dad is living in LA and I'm living with my brother. He is 21 and I'm 16. I work 3 days at work and my brother works every day except Sunday. On Sunday my brother went to play baseball and then we went cruising around with my brother and my Homeboy Robert Romero. Some times we go to LA to buy my present. Some times we stayed with my dad for a few days and then we come home. One day after we came back from my dad my brother was talking about his girl friend and I told him something that she did behind his back and since that day my brother is mad at me but now he is very cool.

Roberto Ariza

A Day at the Beach
July 1990

One day I went to Rosarito with Enrique, Rene, and Chendo. We went to the beach and we took our lunch and some booggie boards. When we got there Chendo started stripping his clothes off. He said "I'll be the first one to go in". He started running toward the beach He got in the water, but the waves knocked him down. He went back and got his booggie board and went to catch some waves. We all went with him. He was saying "Look at me. I'm cool." But then a wave hit him and knocked him off and he was almost drowned but the life guard got him out in time. He told him to be careful and not to go too far. Just because he had a shark shirt didn't mean he could surf.

Eddie Velez

Un día deportivo y de sol
agosto de 1990

Bueno, hoy es domingo y me levanté temprano para desquitar me de la cena. Nos fuimos a correr desde las siete de la mañana a la Escondido High. Regresamos a las diez de la mañana y ya nos estaban esperando para que fueramos a cenar al "Diyon Laks" nos fuimos como a las diez y media. Después todavía me bañé y me cambié. Nos fuimos. Estuve remando un buen rato, pero como me llevé una playera sin mangas terminé bien quemado y aun me duele. No regresamos hasta las tres . La mamá hizo de comer. Fui a nadar un rato, regresé, comí y después fui a mi cuarto a leer una novela pero me quedé dormido y desperté hasta la noche. Me puse a ver una película que se llama Kick Boxer, pero en México es mas conocido ese deporte como full contact que traducido viene a ser contacto completo. Me dormí tarde como a las doce porque no podía dormir por el ardor en mi piel.

Julio Perez

A Day in My Life
August 1990

Today I woke up when Enrique called and asked if I was going to Kit Carson Park. I said I don't know. I don't know if they are going to pick me up. He said he tried to call the office but the machine didn't answer so I called and Susana answered and I told her to come pick me and Enrique and his brother up. She said yeah, and I got ready. She picked me up first, then Enrique. We went to the park and when we got there they said let's go play baseball. We went, we played baseball then we went to eat. Susanna brought us home and I got home and my mom said,"We were going to our cousin's house down in San Ysidro, but we are coming back today." I said, "OK." We went and we got home about 8:00 p.m. and I watched TV and went to sleep. THE END.

Eddie Velez

What I did Today
July 1990

What I did today was I woke up and got dressed and combed my hair, ate breakfast and watched TV and waited for to get picked up but they didn't come. My mom called and they said only Tuesdays so I went to a friend's house. We stayed there kicking-back, doing nothing, listening to the radio. After that we went in the pool for about three hours and there we just ate and just went home.

Eddie Velez

THOUGHTS ABOUT LIFE

Una flor

Una flor en el jardín se ve hermosa, una rosa en el jardín se huele hermosa, pero una persona en donde esté cómo se ve? Una persona es como una flor, nace-crece, reproduce y muere.

Pero también son iguales. Mientras viven gozan de la vida también. Hay quienes no la gozan porque no tienen quien los quieran y una flor es igual, pero ellos aunque sienten no es igual, porque ellas no se quejan como nosotros. Ellas no hablan ni lloran, o talvés sí, pero a su manera.

Alejandra Ariza

La vida
agosto de 1990

Yo pienso que la vida es algo hermoso cuando se sabe vivir de verdad y se vive bien. La vida en sí es algo como un sueño bonito. Tienes que pensar en cosas bonitas y rezar, pero si no soñaras igual así es la vida. Un sueño que en momentos es bonito en momentos es horrible, pero siempre hay que luchar para ser siempre felices y estar satisfechos de lo que se hace. La vida es todo, sin vida no se hace nada. Eso es lo que yo pienso de la vida.

Alejandra Ariza

Hello Friend!
August 1990

Hello my friend, I just wrote to say what I think of you in many different ways. The ways that I think of you are not commonly known to a friend or lover who is not commonly shown or known.

The things I have to say are never easy to do so but here it goes.

The first thing is I never imagined feeling this way but surely it had to happen sooner or later. It was to happen and as you can see it's not easy to say but I like you in many different ways.

The way is that of the best and that of the best is Love L.O.V.E.

Estella Carranza
FROM THE HEART

Mi Novio
agosto de 1990

While sitting here lonely and lost
"mi novio" will never be forgotten in my thoughts.

I sit here wondering where he could be
but how I wish he could be sitting here with me.

I sit here wondering if he is alright
but I have hopes he will be home late tonight.

I say a prayer from him to me
so that we can stay together for as long as can be.

He is "mi novio" and he will always be
for as long as I love him he loves me.

Estella Carranza

El Sida y las drogas
agosto de 1990

Siempre hay un porqué de las cosas que pasan en la vida y pienso que las Drogas y el Sida es algo que en el mundo se está desarrollando en vez que se vaya disminuyendo. Todo eso es mortal para aquellas personas que tienen contacto sexual con hombres y mujeres o que se inyectan con agujas infectadas de otros que ya tienen ese mal u otros simplemente con recibir las sangre donada de alguien que está infectado por el Sida. Es una de las enfermedades más terribles para el ser humano y pienso que para no infectarse hay que tener cuidado de no tener relaciones con nadie que no sea el esposo o esposa. Que esté uno seguro de que no está infectado ni uno ni el otro. Las drogas es algo que tiene mucho en común con el Sida. Las drogas a las personas las enloquece. Cómo deseo que ésto se termine, y que todo eso malo que termina con todas la personas. Agunas personas son inocentes y son víctimas de todo eso malo como también con el Alcoholismo - el Tabaquismo eso también son algunos de tantos vicios que terminan con uno, poco a poco. Espero que yo nunca vaya caer en alguno de esos terribles vicios ni enfermedades.

Alejandra Ariza

Aids and Drugs (translation)
August 1991

There is always a reason why things happen in life. I think that Drugs and Aids is something that is developing instead of dicreasing. This is deadly for those people who come into sexual contact with men and women who have injected themselves with infected needles or who have received a transfusion of infected blood. Aids is one of the most terrible sicknesses of human kind and I think in order to avoid getting infected one has to be careful and not have sexual contact with anybody but your spouse. Both are then certain that the other is not infected. Drugs have a lot in common with Aids. Drugs drive people mad. How I wish this would end, and all that that kills people. Some of the people are innocent victims. The same thing with smokers and alcoholics - these are some of the vices that kill us little by little. I hope that I will never be prey to any of those terrible vices or sicknesses.

Alejandra Arlza

About a New Job
August 1990

My mom and I were talking about something very important.
Then we went to eat a banana split and we started to talk about the job that I was going to or am going to get.

I hope when I start working the little kids like me. I also hope I get along with the other little kids and I hope they get along with me.

Estella Carranza

Decisions
July 1990

Today I woke up and thought about going to school. I asked my parents if I should go or not. They told me its not our decision, it's yours, so I came. When I walked in there, there were more students in the classroom. On Saturday I went to the air show at Miramesa. It was a little boring. They just did almost the same tricks. The last ones were pretty good. It started at 10:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm.

Rosendo Gamino

God Did Not Create Borders
July 1990

Only topic today is division of countries. These borders are lame because when God made this Earth, he didn't put this big old fence around the U.S. or any land.

It's hard when you have to have your people on the other side of the border and why because you got papers and they don't.

It's sad when you hear about some poor Guy getting shot, mugged, raped, attacked while trying to cross these fences. Some of these crimes are never reported and that's why people and authorities take advantage of these people.

People don't realize how dangerous it is ... But money is more more valuable than people.

Martin Manzano

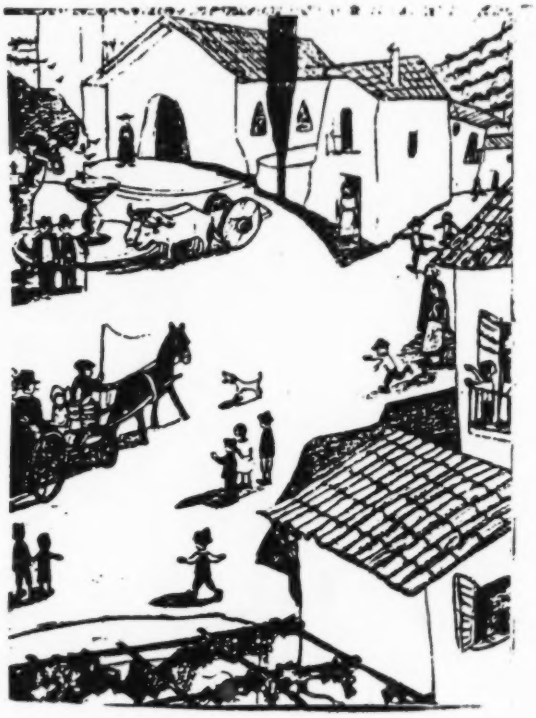
Cuando yo viajé a los Estados Unidos
July 1990

Cuando yo viajé con mi hermana a los Estados Unidos pasamos por los cerros. Llegamos en 1989. Allí mi hermana empezó a trabajar y luego ya tenía como una semana trabajando cuando la despidieron del trabajo. La despidieron porque no sabía hablar el inglés y después empezó a trabajar otra vez. Alli duró como tres semanas y luego ya no le gustó el trabajo. Entonces empezó a estar mala de un pie y asi estuvo después. Ya no pudo caminar y entonces ya no mas estaba acostada. Ya estaba muy mala cuando mi papá hablo a la clínica y vinieron por ella y se la llevaron un sabado como a las 12 del día y se murió el domingo 11 de marzo. Murió como a las 10:30 de la mañana y duró en clínica como ocho días porque no la querían entregar y entonces la entregaron y le hicieron misa y la sepultaron un lunes por la mañana. La sepultaron en el panteón de Escondido y este el el FIN DE LA HISTORIA.

Angelica Duarte

My day of bad luck
August 1990

Yesterday was a bad luck day for me. I was cruising down the street when I saw the girl that I had been talking to for a couple of weeks getting hugged by my "best" friend. When I saw her, I said, "Oh my God, I was so sad I practically wanted to cry. But I said to myself a witch is a witch. After all that happened I went home and called her. She talked to me as if she didn't know anything but I like her so much I didn't tell her anything but next time I will. I told her I was going to call her back but I din't so I better get ready to argue all day.



Luis Montoya

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CREATIVE WRITING

The Sponge Attack
July 1990

Once upon a time in a Universe far far away, there was a planet called Aquarius. This planet was known for its incredible tasting water. Then there came a spaceship one day. This spaceship came from a planet named Water Sucker, but everyone called it Sponge Land. They had come to suck up all the water from Aquarius. There also was this warrior from Aquarius. The people that lived in Aquarius was Merpeople. This warrior was called Atlas. He was the biggest and strongest merman that ever lived. He was not about to take the invasion sitting on the water. What he did was go to the nearby water witch doctor and asked him to make him a poison with water that wherever it would be able to flood a whole planet. What Atlas did was that he shot the poison into the spaceship and it started to give off so much water that it flooded the spaceship. Since the Sponge People were made of sponge, they started to suck up all the water and they overflowed and they blew up. After that they went back to their homeplanet and never came back. Atlas was made king of Aquarius and lived happily ever after.

The End

Damian Macias

If I could choose to be an animal I would like to be ...
July 1990

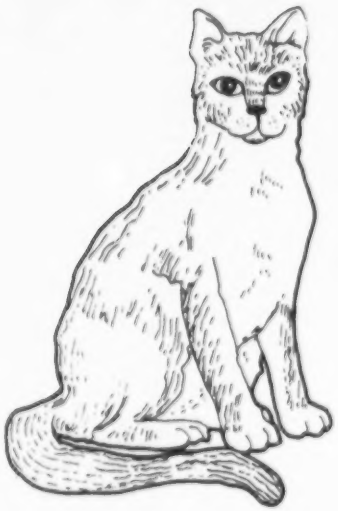
...An eagle that could fly around everywhere and not get hurt. I would be protected by the law and I can also be really friendly maybe if people are nice to me. I would probably fly by the beach and see what goes on around the world. Maybe the way I would want to be an eagle, is the way I would want to be a person. An eagle is good because its free and I like to be free. I also know eagles like to hunt for their food and I like hunting.

Luis Montoya

Que animal me gustaría ser?
julio de 1990

Si yo me pudiera convertir en un animal me gustaría ser una paloma para volar alto y muy lejos. Para conocer muchas partes y para sentirme cerca de las nubes y para sertime muy alta. Para sentirme cerca del mar y para poder recorrer todo el mundo y para tener mi casa arriba de un árbol. Para que nadie sepa donde vivo yo porque si yo fuera una paloma haría un nido muy alto y muy escondido para que nadie me mirara y no me hicieran daño.

Alicia Velasquez



What animal would I like to be?
July 1990

I would like to be a cat because people would take care of me and love me. I could play with strings, little girls would hold me\and bathe me. I could also sleep all day or be gone all day, but most of all I could stay in the house without thinking of dogs chasing me or dog and cat catcher coming after me. But sometimes I would do some house work like chase rats or lizards around the house. The color of the cat I would like to be would be pearl white with ocean blue eyes. That way girls and sexy ladies would love and carry me and also care for me.

Juan Arguello

A BMW, A First Car!
July 1990

Once upon a time there was a young man named Oscar. He was a handsome young man, and he was very kind. He went to Escondido High school where he had the best teachers in the state. Oscar was a very smart man. His dreams were to become a professional surgeon or Eye Doctor. That's where all the money was. Oscar's birthday was coming up. He was hoping to get his first BMW. His birthday was a week away. Days passed, his birthday was the next day. Oscar went to sleep that night excited on finding his new car on the driveway. Almost all night he thought about his new BMW. Oscar woke the next morning with a big smile, he looked out the window and there was nothing. He went downstairs to look in the car garage. Oscar only lived with his grandparents. His grandparents weren't very rich, but they did have enough money to buy BMW. But his grandparents turned to him and handed him one lottery ticket. Oscar was very sad and disappointed. But he didn't show it. He smiled at his grandparents. He received the ticket, said thank you, and went up stairs. Oscar fell on the bed and went back to sleep. He left the ticket on the desk in his room next to his computer. He woke up later that day, picked up the ticket and decided to watch the numbers. There were six boxes. If you got two of the same you win the amount of money that is shown in the key. Oscar started to scratch the box. There was an Ace. The second was the eight of hearts, the third was the nine of spades, the fourth was an Ace. Oscar got two Aces. He checked the key. He looked and was stunned. He went downstairs and told his grandparents he had six hundred million dollars. Oscar was very rich. He bought himself a new BMW, and a Big house for his grandparents. He also became a famous surgeon.

Oscar Carrllo

REFERENCES

The resource material listed below was used in developing parts of Our Culture, Our Lives. The overall concept for the project was borrowed from The Foxfire Book. A similar book about migrants is Migrant Farmworkers of Wayne County, New York: A Collection of Oral Histories from The Back Roads. Many of the topics reflected in the students' writing were taken from other material noted or reflect the students' experiences in the CA 4-H Leadership Conference, 1990.

- *The Fox Fire Book by Brooks Eliot Wigginton published by Anchor Press, Doubleday, 1972 in Garden City, New York*

- *The Back Roads: A Collection of Oral Histories by Joyce Woelfle Lehman, Wayne County Historical Society Migrant Farmworkers of Wayne County, 1990 21 Butternut Street Lyons, New York 14489*

- *Just Say I Know How Produced by the MCPC Group County of San Diego Department of Health Services, Drug Abuse Services, 1989 P. O. Box 1577 Spring Valley Ca 92077*

- *Yo Puedo Human Development Training Institute 1727 Fifth Avenue, San Diego CA 92101*

- *California 4-H Youth Development Program Cooperative Extension Division of Agriculture & National Resources University of California State Youth Leadership Conference*